

Rev. Sam Miller 1987–91, Rev. Jim Knutsen 1991–95, Rev. Gary Jeffery 1995–96, and Rev. Siegfried Manntai 1996–present.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask my colleagues to join me in saluting, thanking, and honoring the pastors and congregation of Calvary Community Church for its 50 years of dedication and service to the community.

ANTHONY SCIBELLI OF SPRINGFIELD, MA, LONGEST CONTINUOUSLY SERVING STATE LEGISLATOR

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 1997

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great joy to extend my congratulations to a constituent of mine who was recently recognized by the National Conference of State Legislators as the "longest continuously serving legislator in the United States of America." Anthony Scibelli, a friend, neighbor, and staple in the Springfield political arena, has for 47 years served his constituents in the 10th Hampden County district with dedication, commitment, and honor.

Representative Scibelli's political career has been extensive. Tony began his life of public service in his native Springfield by serving for 12 years on the city council. In 1951, he began what has proven to be a successful career by becoming a State representative and member of the Massachusetts General Court. And over the years, as he has earned the title of "Dean of the House," Anthony Scibelli has never forgotten where he has come from and the people who have elected him.

Strongly committed to the concept of education for all, Scibelli's dedication is best embodied in the halls and classrooms of Springfield Technical Community College. As someone who has fought for opportunities for all, his devotion to this ideal has been enjoyed by every child and family who has ever swum in the Emerson Wight pool. A former chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Representative Scibelli has been a vital participant in the State's legislative process.

Anthony Scibelli currently serves on the Joint Ways and Means Committee, House Ways and Means Committee and Transportation Committee. He also proudly serves as a distinguished member of the Knights of Columbus, the Elks, the Eagles, the Sons of Italy, and the Longmeadow Country Club. While his memberships and affiliations describe some of his personal qualities, perhaps Anthony Scibelli can best be understood by reviewing his personal philosophy. As he says about himself, "I never ignore or dismiss even the smallest request from people. Very simply put, I feel good about being in a position to help those who need it."

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend, my friend, Representative Anthony Scibelli, on this unique and well-deserved national designation and for the vital role he has assumed in Springfield. I am proud to join with the citizens of the second congressional district in offering a most heartfelt congratulations.

HONORING PASTOR AMOS G. JOHNSON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise before you today to recognize the achievements of Pastor Amos G. Johnson of Pontiac, MI. On Saturday, October 4, the congregation of Pontiac's New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church will honor Pastor Johnson for 40 years of dedicated service to the community in the name of the Lord.

I wish the circumstances that brought Pastor Johnson to Pontiac from Clinton, MS in 1957 had been more pleasant. Even degrees from Jackson State College and American Baptist Theological Seminary could not protect him from persecution and harassment based on the color of his skin. Following a divine voice, Pastor Johnson left Mississippi for Michigan, and 2 weeks later became the head of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. In those 40 years, the New Bethel congregation has grown from 50 to more than 1,500 under Pastor Johnson's leadership. The church has moved from their original building to a beautiful new facility directly across the street. The original church still stands as the New Bethel Outreach Ministry-Shelter for the homeless, servicing 161 families and 288 children.

Pastor Johnson's time with the ministry has allowed him to develop a strong support network that extends outside the church. The pastor has been affiliated with and has held leadership positions in groups such as the Greater Pontiac District Association, Wolverine State Congress, Oakland County Ministerial Fellowship, and the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, to name a few. He has also been honored with an honorary degree from the Urban Bible Institute in Detroit.

Pastor Johnson's deeds in the name of the Lord are just as remarkable as his deeds on behalf of the Pontiac community. In addition to the Outreach Center, he has served as chaplain at North Oakland Medical Center in Pontiac, and has worked tirelessly to aid those struggling with substance abuse. Counting strong relationships with young people as a major accomplishment, Pastor Johnson can often be found working with student and teachers in the Pontiac School District.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask you and my fellow Members of the 105th Congress to join me in saluting Pastor Amos Johnson. I also ask that you acknowledge the contributions made by Marjorie, his wonderful wife of 49 years, who has been with him every step of the way. Self evident in their lifelong commitment to enhancing the dignity and nurturing the spirits of all people. Our community is a much better place because of Pastor and Mrs. Amos Johnson.

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 1997

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the in-

corporation of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. On October 2, 1957, the sheriffs of the State of Florida, with the best interests of our young men and women in mind, saw fit to organize the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch along the banks of the Suwannee River. The Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch has been in continuous operation for the last 40 years and has served as the foundation for programs ranging from statewide child care programs to nationally accredited, community-based, family counseling services; independent living skills; parenting classes; and family life education.

The ongoing work of these rewarding programs and their dedicated staff have given over 30,000 young men and women the chance to resolve personal conflicts and the opportunity to live as lawful, productive assets to society. Their efforts have helped to rebuild the American family and combat juvenile crime at the source, encouraging our youth to act as responsible citizens and to pursue more rewarding pastimes and activities. Their hard work and dedication to the youth of the State of Florida is most commendable, and I ask, Mr. Speaker, that you join me in honoring the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches on this, their 40th anniversary.

DEDICATION OF KOOTENAI COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the Members' attention to the dedication today of an important memorial in Kootenai County, ID. I am proud to say that the Kootenai County Veterans Memorial Plaza being dedicated today represents the gratefulness that the people of Idaho have for our Nation's veterans from the Revolutionary War up to the Persian Gulf war. The chairman of the county commissioners, Dick Compton, and Commissioners Richard Panabaker and Ronald D. Rankin echo the sentiments of the great people of Kootenai County in their appreciation for the great sacrifices these veterans made. The State of Idaho has a proud history of support for our Nation's armed services and for our Nation's veterans. Idaho has also stood strong for the founding principles that have made this country great. The Veterans Memorial Plaza stands as an important monument for our Nation's veterans and for these great principles which they stood for with such courage, willingness, and sacrifice of life and limb. I applaud the people of Kootenai County for the dedication of the Veterans Memorial Plaza. I would encourage each of the members to read the heartfelt words from Commissioner Rankin's dedication below.

DEDICATION OF VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA

(By Commissioner Ronald D. Rankin)

In December of 1776, just five months after the Declaration of Independence had been signed and the thirteen colonies were swept up in the American Revolution, Thomas Paine wrote, "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands now deserves the love and thanks of all men and women."